



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

JANUARY 31, 2013

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A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012

PERMITS ISSUED

10/1/12—12/31/12

Individual Minors	60
Individual Majors	14
Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal	11

GENERAL PERMITS

Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	3
Dewater PST	2
Oil & Gas Exploration—Territorial	1
Oil & Gas Exploration—Coastal	11
Potable Water	0
Short Term/Emergency	2
Auto Dealer	7
Light Commercial	16
Sand & Gravel	2
Class I Sanitary	137
Class II Sanitary	19
Class III Sanitary	2
Class IV Sanitary	9
Hydrostatic Test	7
Exterior Vehicle Wash	9
C&D Landfill	24
Petroleum UST	6
Multi-Sector	18
Large Construction	155

% CURRENT

MAJORS	95.8
MINORS/GENERALS	99.5

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	67
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TMDL PACE ACTIVITIES

Modeling efforts — ongoing

ASSESSMENTS

Data Sets Evaluated	172
Solicitation of Views Letters Reviewed	92

Water Permits Division (WPD) Newsletter

DEQ Water Permits Division publishes this quarterly newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting, water quality modeling/TMDLs, water quality certifications, sewage sludge and biosolids permitting, and water quality standards and assessments activities. We welcome and solicit your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Stormwater Information Webpage

New! A Stormwater Information webpage is under development by the Water Permits Division. The purpose is to consolidate helpful information, such as construction guidance documents, links to BMPs, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) templates. SWPPP templates and information related to construction storm water runoff are now posted at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/LPDESPermits/StormwaterInformation.aspx>. Information related to industrial storm water and MS4s will be added soon. For more information, contact Kim Cortis at 225-219-3208.

LAG260000 Issuance Update

On June 10, 2011, Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit remanded the oil and gas territorial seas general permit LAG260000 to DEQ. As a result of the remand, DEQ has determined that it is necessary to modify the general permit to remove the outfall for produced water. Facilities wishing to discharge produced water were asked to apply for coverage under an individual permit (Oil & Gas-IND (O&G-IND) by April 1, 2012. Twenty-one (21) O&G-IND permit applications have been received and one (1) has been withdrawn from consideration. The first individual permit has been issued to Breton Sound 53 Production Facility (AI 32659) with an effective date of February 1, 2013; this permit includes requirements for an industry wide study. LDEQ is in the process of drafting permits for the remaining nineteen (19) applications received. Questions may be directed to Bruce Fielding at 225-219-3231 or Jennifer Sheppard at 225-219-3499.

Contact Information Update

The WPD is working to update all permittee contact information, including contact name, mailing address, email address, and phone number in our permit database. The updated information will streamline the process to contact permittees in case of emergency. To update your contact information, please send an email to the PPPSD at facupdate@la.gov. Please be sure to include your facility's agency interest (AI) and permit numbers.

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Surface Water Withdrawals Map

There are many old and new industrial processes that require the use of large amounts of water. In order for the state to protect the surface water resources for multiple uses such as drinking water supply and support of aquatic life, the use -- or withdrawal -- of water must be monitored and evaluated. In 2010, several agencies -- DNR, DWF and DEQ -- developed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in evaluating the impact of surface water withdrawals that are requested through the state's cooperative endeavor program. More information on the program, including application information, can be found at: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=92>

DEQ's role is to review the proposed withdrawals in consideration of existing water quality and quantity conditions and whether the water body is supporting its designated uses that may include but are not limited to drinking water, aquatic life support, recreation, and agriculture. Thoroughly evaluating the impacts of surface water withdrawals has been complicated by multiple withdrawals being located on the same water body. To help address evaluation of cumulative impacts, DEQ, in coordination with DNR and DWF, has initiated development of a new tool -- a map layer indicating withdrawal sites along the water body. When using the withdrawal map layer during the application review process, the agencies are able to see where the proposed site is located, how much water withdrawal is anticipated, where other withdrawals may be occurring and other information pertinent to evaluating the impact of the withdrawal. The information helps the agencies recommend withdrawal conditions that should result in protection of the state's surface water resources. For more information contact Karen Vidrine at 225-219-3039.

Antidegradation

In July, LDEQ proposed minor changes to the antidegradation water quality regulations. At the end of the public comment period on September 17, 2012, the department received 15 comments from four commenters. The department responded to the comments by making additional changes. The changes were published in the *Louisiana Register* on December 20, 2012. A second public hearing on the substantive changes is scheduled for January 29, 2013. The comment period will close at 4:30 pm on January 29, 2013. For more information contact Sandy Stephens at 225-219-3218.



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106 Supplemental Grants

The Clean Water Act provides DEQ with supplemental grant funds through Section 106 of the Act to help address a variety of water quality problems. WPD Water Quality Section personnel have recently completed activities funded under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement grant. Work completed under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement Grant included cleansing of 426,115 historical field data records in the L'EAU database. Work completed for more recent Section 106 supplemental monitoring funds for FY10 and FY11 have been equipment and supply purchases and collection of macroinvertebrate and periphyton samples in Louisiana ecoregions to support nutrient criteria development. The FY12-FY13 monitoring grant funds have been partially awarded; work completed under this grant includes data collection in the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plains (LMRAP) ecoregion from June through December 2012 to support dissolved oxygen criteria refinement as well as to inform minerals and nutrient criteria development. For more information contact Tara Nixon at 225-219-3189.

Integrated Report

On December 19, 2012, LDEQ initiated a 30-day public review and comment period on revisions made to the draft 2012 Integrated Report. The public notice period ends January 23, 2013. LDEQ will include responses to comments received in the final report to be submitted to EPA Region 6 after the close of the public comment period. The final report will be available to the public on the LDEQ Website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/WaterQualityStandardsAssessment.aspx>. For more information contact Al Hindrichs at 225-219-3212.

Nutrient Gradient Project Update

DEQ Surveys, Standards and Permits personnel continued monthly water quality sampling for the Nutrient Gradient Project. The comprehensive water quality characterization study to evaluate potential relationships between levels of nutrients and their effects on aquatic life is supported with grant funding from EPA. Water quality sampling of the sixty sites selected across Louisiana began in December 2011 and was concluded in October 2012. Water quality sampling will resume in June 2013 and continue through October or November 2013. Sampling and surveying of ambient water quality parameters, fish, macroinvertebrates, algae and habitat are being conducted. DEQ also continued tracking and evaluating field and laboratory data. Data analysis results will be used to inform DEQ's nutrient management strategy efforts. Contact Steph Braden at 225-219-3187 for further information.

Sewage Sludge and Biosolids

WPD has registered 263 sewage sludge transporters for 2012-2013. **The Annual Sewage Sludge Reporting Forms are due February 19, 2013. If you haven't submitted your reporting form, you will not be approved to haul sewage sludge for the 2013-2014 year.** To re-register for the 2013-2014 year, the sewage sludge hauler notification form must be submitted no later than May 1, 2013. A list of all approved sewage sludge treatment and/or disposal facilities and a list of all approved sewage sludge transporters is posted on the DEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/Biosolids.aspx>. Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

General Permit Update

LAG030000—The public comment period for the Draft Master General Permit for Vessel Cleaning and Repair and Shipyards ended on November 15, 2012. The final permit will be issued subsequent to issuance of the Vessel General Permit by EPA on or about March 15, 2013. For more information contact Angela Marse at 225-219-4054.

LAG530000—The Master General Permit for Sanitary discharges totaling less than 5,000 gallons per day was issued October 3, 2012; effective December 1, 2012. Permittees that were covered under the previous Class I Sanitary General Permit will have coverage extended to them. A new Notice of Intent will not be required for those previously covered under the permit. These permittees should continue to follow the requirements of the previous permit until the renewal notification is received. For more information contact Rachel Davis at 225-219-3515.

LAG540000—The Master General Permit for Sanitary discharges totaling less than 25,000 gallons per day will expire on June 30, 2013. The Water Permits Division is currently in the process of renewing this permit. For more information contact Rachel Davis at 225-219-3515.

LAG670000—The final permit was issued October 17, 2012; effective February 1, 2013. Currently permitted operators will receive notification of automatic coverage under the reissued permit after February 1, 2013. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

LAG830000—The final permit was issued October 17, 2012; effective December 15, 2012. Currently permitted operators were notified of automatic coverage under the reissued permit in December, 2012. For more information contact Kim Corts at 225-219-3208.

LAG940000—Upon the reissuance of LAG830000, facilities currently covered under LAG940000 may now be covered under LAG830000. LAG940000 will be terminated April 15, 2013. Currently permitted operators were notified to reapply for coverage under the LAG830000 in December, 2012. For more information contact Kim Corts at 225-219-3208.

LAR200000—The final permit was issued 11/1/2012; effective 3/1/2013. For more information contact Kim Corts at 225-219-3208.

Nutrient Management Strategy

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is working on a statewide Nutrient Management Strategy (Strategy) along with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA), the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR). The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program Office awarded \$100,000 to CPRA to support state efforts in developing the Strategy for Louisiana. The inter-agency team has developed strategic components that align with strategic elements outlined in action plans of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Hypoxia Task Force. A key component of the Strategy is stakeholder engagement which began in late 2012 and is continuing through early 2013. In addition to stakeholder outreach, the interagency team has developed a Strategy Factsheet, is developing a Strategy web site, and has compiled information on decision-support tools; existing nutrient management practices and restoration activities; and regulations, programs, and policies pertinent to the state's nutrient management efforts. The final draft strategy is expected to be developed by the end of 2013. Contact Steph Braden at 225-219-3187 for further information.